

I. (12 points) Read the texts below and decide which variant (A, B, C or D) best fits each space.

Title Race

Human nature provides the most divine of comedies. ____ (1) a recent study which has informed the nation that job titles are a prime cause of envy and unrest at work. A survey by a leading firm of recruitment consultants found that 90% of employers and 70% of employees admit that titles create ____ (2) among colleagues. Most shockingly, the survey found that 70% of office workers would be willing to ____ (3) a pay rise in favour of a more 'motivational' or 'professional' job title. If our vanity is ____ (4) such proportions that even basic greed is being overwhelmed, we are indeed in dire straits. The truth is that in these brave new days of the 21st century, nobody is content to be ____ (5) subordinate. The titles under discussion ____ (6) the emphasis on ability (specialist, coordinator) but are, in fact, little more than euphemisms.

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|---------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. A – Corroborate | B – Testify | C – Confirm | D – Witness |
| 2. A – compartments | B – demarcations | C – divisions | D – partitions |
| 3. A – forgo | B – revoke | C – forbear | D – resign |
| 4. A – attaining | B – reaching | C – touching | D – finding |
| 5. A – defined | B – marked | C – labelled | D – identified |
| 6. A – place | B – set | C – fix | D – allocate |

Amateur Astronomy

Many things have changed in astronomy over the past half-century. Until about 30 years ago, there was a great ____ (7) of charts and catalogues. Telescopic equipment was limited and there were few books on practical astronomy. Today, the range of off-the-shelf telescopes and equipment covers almost everything one could need. Electronic calculators and computers have revolutionized almanacs and chart production, and ____ (8) the analysis of observations and the publication of results. All this must surely make this the golden ____ (9) of amateur astronomy. Well perhaps, but a great deal has been lost as well. Now one may have to travel 80 km to find a sky comparable to that found in urban areas 50 years ago. The daytime skies are now ____ (10) by aircraft condensation trails which can ____ (11) for hours and often spread out to form amorphous clouds, making solar observations impossible and ____ (12) night-time observation too.

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|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 7. A – deficiency | B – shortfall | C – inadequacy | D – shortage |
| 8. A – facilitated | B – maximized | C – cultivated | D – upheld |
| 9. A – period | B – age | C – time | D – term |
| 10. A – bothered | B – plagued | C – troubled | D – badgered |
| 11. A – proceed | B – pursue | C – prolong | D – persist |
| 12. A – hampering | B – smothering | C – overcoming | D – combating |

II. (15 points) Fill the gaps in the text below with ONE suitable word.

In 1973, which was the year I visited the city ____ (1) the first and only time, I was completely bewitched by London. My friend Gillian and I found a small hotel just ____ (2) Holland Park Road. By an amazing coincidence it was the ____ (3) hotel in which Gillian's father had stayed five years before – and they remembered him! Near the hotel there were several buses, ____ (4) of which ran particularly regularly in those days. Every morning we ____ (5) catch one of these buses to Oxford Street and spend hours looking in shop windows ____ (6) the wonderful things which two young women on a shoe-string budget ____ (7) not afford. Gillian ____ (8) liked to go to Knightsbridge ____ (9) there were even more expensive shops ____ (10) as Harvey Nicholls and the famous Harrods. The only things we could afford to buy were the beautiful linen handkerchiefs ____ (11) we gave to our friends when we got ____ (12) to Canada. Gillian's older brother who ____ (13) visited London earlier that year had given us a list of the places that he had visited. We happily retraced his ____ (14), sometimes stopping for a cup of tea in ____ (15) of the cafes which he had recommended.

III. (20 points) Rephrase the following sentences so that the meaning stays the same and using the word in capitals. You must not change the word in capitals.

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. People know more about the films John makes than the songs he composes.
John's _____ than as a composer. | BETTER |
| 2. I was about to leave the house when the postman arrived.
I _____ when the postman arrived. | POINT |
| 3. Oskar didn't feel like seeing anyone last night.
Oskar _____ last night. | MOOD |
| 4. They gave Martha the impression that she would be accepted.
Martha _____ she would be accepted. | BELIEVE |
| 5. I've never thought of asking my boss for advice about what car to buy.
It has _____ my boss for advice about restaurants. | OCCURRED |
| 6. The delay is a nuisance, but I'm sure Jim can solve the problem. | COME |

The delay is a nuisance, but I'm sure Jim can _____ to the problem.

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| 7. Travellers may bring as much luggage as they require.
There _____ travellers may bring. | AMOUNT |
| 8. Nobody spoke when the teacher asked who the culprit was.
Everyone _____ who the culprit was. | REMAINED |
| 9. He behaved in an incomprehensible way at the meeting.
His _____ comprehension. | BEYOND |
| 10. She was surprised when he suddenly promised to lend her the money.
His _____ surprise. | TOOK |

IV. READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and complete the tasks:

There are some activities that will not be rushed. They take the time that they take. If you are late for a meeting, you can hurry. But if you are impatient with the mayonnaise and add the oil too quickly, it curdles. ____ (1). The mind, too, works at different speeds. Some of its functions are performed at lightning speeds; others take seconds, minutes, hours, days or even years to complete their course. Some can be speeded up – we can become quicker at solving crossword puzzles or doing mental arithmetic. But others cannot be rushed, and if they are, then they will break down, like the mayonnaise, or get tangled up, like the fishing line. 'Think fast; we need the results' may sometimes be as absurd a notion, or at least as counterproductive, as the attempt to cram a night's rest into half the time. ____ (2). 'He who hesitated is last', says one proverb. 'Look before you leap', says another. And **both are true**.

Roughly speaking, the mind possesses three different processing speeds. The first is faster than thought. Some situations demand an unselfconscious, instantaneous reaction. When my motorbike skidded on a wet road in London some years ago, my brain and my body immediately choreographed for me and intricate and effective set of movements that enabled me to keep my seat – and it was only after the action was all over that my conscious mind and my emotions started to catch up. Neither a concert pianist nor an Olympic fencer has time to figure out what to do next. ____ (3). This mode of fast physical intelligence could be called our 'wits'. (The five senses are originally known as 'the five wits').

Then there is thought itself: the sort of intelligence which does involve figuring matters out, weighing up the pros and cons, constructing arguments and solving problems. ____ (4). We often call this kind of intelligence 'intellect'. Someone who is good at solving these sorts of problems we call 'bright' or 'clever'.

But below this, there is another mental register that proceeds more slowly still. It is often purposeful and clear-cut, more playful, leisurely or dreamy. In this mode we are ruminating or mulling things over; being contemplative or meditative. Perched on a seaside rock, lost in the sound and the motion of the surf, or hovering just on the brink of sleep or waking, we are in a different mental mode from the one we find ourselves in as we plan a meal or dictate a letter. This leisurely, apparently aimless, way of knowing or experiencing is just as intelligent as the other, faster ones. ____ (5) **On the contrary**, thinking slowly is a vital part of the cognitive armoury. We need the tortoise mind just as much as we need the hare brain.

A. (10 points) Five sentences have been removed from the text. Select the appropriate sentence for each gap in the text. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A. A mechanic working out why an engine will not fire, a scientist trying to interpret an intriguing experimental result, a student wrestling with an assignment: all employing a way of knowing that relies in reason and logic, on deliberate and conscious thinking.
- B. Allowing the mind time to meander is not a luxury that can safely be cut back as life or work gets more demanding.
- C. If you start tugging with frustration on a tangled fishing line, the knot just becomes tighter.
- D. The hybrid discipline of 'cognitive science' is revealing that the unconscious realms of the human mind will successfully accomplish a number of unusual, interesting and important tasks if they are given the time.
- E. There is a kind of intelligence that works more rapidly than thinking.
- F. We learn, think and know in a variety of ways, and these modes of the mind operate at different speeds, and are good for different mental jobs.

B. (8 points) For the following questions, choose the answer (A, B, C, D) which fits according to the text.

- 1. What point is the writer making when he says 'both are true' (paragraph 1)?
 - A. At least two different approaches to a problem are normally essential.
 - B. No one approach is appropriate for all problems.
 - C. Even contradictory sayings can be equally true.

- D. Success in problem-solving is determined by speed.
2. The writer mentions the concert pianist and the Olympic fencer to demonstrate that
- exceptional mental and practical skills are evident in different fields.
 - there is a mental process which functions faster than conscious thought.
 - emotions are not involved in complex physical activity.
 - the body functions independently of the mind in stressful situations.
3. The writer believes 'cleverness' is rooted in
- skills acquired through practice.
 - the ability to explain the thinking process.
 - the power of the subconscious mind.
 - the power of rational thought.
4. The writer uses the phrase 'On the contrary' (last paragraph) to emphasize that a slower mode of thought is
- an alternative approach to managing stress.
 - indispensable to our mental apparatus.
 - a relaxing way of avoiding problems.
 - physically undemanding as a means of escape.

V. (10 points) Read the text below and use the words given in capitals to form words that fit in the gaps. The words in capitals are given in the order in which you need to use them.

Is it not a good thing to exaggerate the _____ (1) problems the world faces rather than _____ (2) them? Not necessarily. A new book, *Lie of the Land*, documents just how damaging the myth of _____ (3) has been in parts of the Sahel region of Africa, where Westerners have forced _____ (4) measures on puzzled local inhabitants in order to meet activists' _____ (5) ideas about environmental change. The ill-conceived notion that oil and gas will imminently run out is responsible for the _____ (6) of wild landscapes in Wales and Denmark by ugly wind farms. School textbooks are counsels of despair and guilt, which offer no hope of winning the war against famine, disease and pollution, thereby inducing _____ (7) rather than _____ (8). There should be room in the environmental movement for those who think that technology and _____ (9) freedom will make the world cleaner. But at the moment such optimists are distinctly _____ (10) among environmentalists.

1 – POTENT
2 – PLAY
3 – FOREST
4 – PROPER
5 – CONCEIVE
6 – SPOIL
7 – FATAL
8 – DETERMINE
9 – ECONOMY
10 – WELCOME

VII. (25 points) Write a 8-10 line paragraph to reflect on GROWING UP.

SCRIEȚI RĂSPUNSURILE PE FOAIA DE RĂSPUNS (ANSWER SHEET). BARAȚI TOATE SPAȚIILE NECOMPLETATE. TIMP DE LUCRU: 3 ORE. NU SE ACORDĂ PUNCTE DIN OFICIU.

INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR AL MUNICIPIULUI BUCUREȘTI
OLIMPIADA DE LIMBA ENGLEZĂ 2012- 2013
ETAPA PE ȘCOALA – CLASA a XII-a -

PUNCTAJ SI BAREM
VARIANTA 1

I. (12 puncte)

1D 2C 3A 4B 5C 6A 7D 8A 9B 10B 11D 12A

II. (15 puncte)

1-for 2-off 3-same 4-none 5-would 6-at 7-could 8-also 9-where 10-such 11-which/that 12-back 13-had 14-steps 15-one

III. (20 puncte)

1. better known as a director/film maker
2. was on the point of leaving the house
3. wasn't in the mood for seeing anyone
4. was made/led to believe (that)
5. never occurred to me to ask
6. come up with a solution
7. is no limit to the amount of luggage
8. remained silent when the teacher asked
9. behaviour at the meeting was beyond
10. promise to lend her the money took her by

IV. (18 puncte)

- A. 1-C 2-F 3-E 4-A 5-B**
B. 1-B 2-B 3-D 4-B

V. (10 puncte)

1-POTENTIAL 2-UNDERPLAY 3-DEFORESTATION 4-INAPPROPRIATE 5-PRECONCEIVED 6-DESPOLIATION 7- FATALISM 8-DETERMINATION 9-ECONOMIC 10-UNWELCOME

VI. (25 points)

NOTA: Pentru subiectele II și III se acceptă orice variantă posibilă corectă.